

# Gingrich idea connects D.C.

## to Md. ... sorta

WASHINGTON (AP) - House Speaker Newt Gingrich is proposing District of Columbia residents be given a voting House representation as Marylanders but the city wouldn't become part of the state, a published report said Sunday.

The *Washington Times* quotes unidentified federal and congressional sources as saying the proposal by Mr. Gingrich, R-Ga., is still in its preliminary stages.

The nation's capital would become Maryland's "ninth congressional district" for federal voting purposes only, and would elect its own full-fledged House member and cast ballots for the state's two U.S. senators.

But city residents would not vote for governor, General Assembly lawmakers or any other offices in the state, said one source familiar with Mr. Gingrich's proposal.

The newspaper said the idea is one of several being floated on Capitol Hill to give the district's nearly 600,000 residents full congressional voting representation.

The speaker and other influential Republicans said while they are sympathetic to the plight of the city's residents who pay federal taxes without full representation, they don't endorse statehood for the nation's capital.

(Continued on Page A-7)

# D.C.

(Continued from Page A-1)

"It's one of the better ideas that have come up" regarding the district, said Ann Heuer, the city's Republican national committee-woman.

But Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., the city's nonvoting Capitol Hill representative, said the speaker's proposal would most likely require a constitutional amendment.

Ms. Norton, who was stripped of her limited voting power on the first day of the 104th Congress by the Republican majority, offered an alternative.

"What (Mr. Gingrich) could do now is return the delegate's right to vote on the basis of residents of the District of Columbia paying federal income taxes," she said.

Spokesmen for Maryland Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes, said the lawmakers support full statehood for residents of the nation's capital.

"The district is not part of Maryland or Virginia, it's an independent entity," Sarbanes spokesman Bruce Frame said.

Gov. Parris Glendening, the former executive of Prince George's County, previously said he would not support a proposal by Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, to return the city to

Maryland.

Washington Mayor Marion Barry, who has discussed the proposal with Mr. Gingrich, said he supports the idea.

I think it's a great idea as an interim step to full statehood," Mr. Barry said. "It's something we ought to work on."

He added the suggestion would give his constituents more of a voice on Capitol Hill.

But Maryland Republicans discount the proposal because it would create a new influx of Democrats eligible to vote in state congressional races.

There are 367,013 registered voters in the nation's capital, 289,353 are Democrats.

"Our chances of getting a Republican senator (elected) would be almost nil," Maryland GOP Chairwoman Joyce Terhes said. "That's a great concern."

Ms. Terhes said there were also logistical problems inherent in the proposal.

"It's more of a question of the mechanics and how to make it work," she said. "That (Washington residents) would participate in congressional elections, but not in other elections, doesn't make sense to me."